



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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monolake.org
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January 28, 2020

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Mono Lake Committee, a grassroots nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that relies on mail for the majority of our fundraising, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation.

The Mono Lake Committee is a 16,000 member citizens' group dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem, educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use, and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.

The proposed increases will have a devastating impact on the Mono Lake Committee's ability to carry out its mission and will not achieve the needed reforms to the US Postal Service.

Our organization is located in a remote area—a town of 400 people located in the high desert of California's Eastern Sierra just east of Yosemite National Park, but Mono Lake is a national treasure connected by drinking water to the city of Los Angeles. Mono Lake's existence depends on the financial support of our members, primarily maintained through direct mail. Since the first days of our organization, in 1978, our founders built support for Mono Lake via direct mail fundraising, and our membership program is essential to making our work on behalf of Mono Lake possible.

Our organization not only supports the protection and restoration of Mono Lake, but messages of water conservation in Los Angeles and to future conservation leaders and decision-makers. Our direct mail program also enables us to employ a significant percentage of the local economy—including staff who manually organize bulk mailings in order to save valuable postage funds.

The Mono Lake Committee is not able to increase our budget to keep pace with the proposed postage increases, which means the increases will reduce our use of mail, and will certainly lead to less revenue, and limit our ability to protect the unique wildlife, forests, geologic wonders, and valuable public lands at Mono Lake.

We urge you to reconsider your postage rate increase proposal.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey McQuilkin
Executive Director